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BERNARD QUARITCH'S LETTER

TO

GENERAL STARRING,

JANUARY 14TH, 1880.

Confidential.]

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LONDON, 15 PICCADILLY, *January 14, 1880.*

TO GENERAL STARRING,

Special Agent U.S. Treasury in Europe,

Morley's Hotel.

SIR,—I desire to repeat to you in writing the statements I made to you in conversation in reply to your several inquiries.

I shall be glad to give any further information in my power, and to verify all my statements by oath—if this is preferred.

I understand the several inquiries and allegations to be substantially as follows.

I. THAT a history of myself as a Bookseller and Publisher would be acceptable.

II. THAT a list of my Customers and Consignees in America would be acceptable.

III. THAT it is alleged that I succeeded in getting a fraudulent invoice through the New York Customs, and that my consignments to the United States are supposed to be fraudulent in that the books are invoiced as having been printed over twenty years, while they are known to have been printed within the last five years.

IV. THAT a list of books invoiced by me as having been printed over twenty years, but actually printed within that period, is desired.

V. AND finally, that by reason of the alleged fraudulent character of the invoice of books consigned to Messrs. Thomas and Sons, the books were seized for a violation of Section 2864 Revised Statutes of the United States.

The accusations against me are so monstrous and so untrue, that I find it almost beneath my dignity to offer any defence.

My conduct ever since I was a man has been such as to win the respect and confidence of most people. Though I am what is called in England "only a tradesman," the standard of my honour is as high as that of the best in the land. The character of the Chevalier Bayard, "Sans peur et sans reproche," has been my ideal through life : and to arraign me—BERNARD QUARITCH—for fraud is as shocking to my sense of propriety as if the established laws of nature had been violated and reversed.

The United States' Government has my honour upon trial. Whatever the result be, and however I should regret an adverse decision, I have full confidence in the judgment of my American customers, and do not doubt that they will all stand by me, and continue to believe in me. In the days of *Autos de la fe* the Inquisitors could burn those whom they looked upon as heretics, but the reputation of the victims has not been tarnished by their condemnation. I do not court martyrdom—a martyr

is seldom a pattern of wisdom; but I plead for even justice and a calm unbiassed consideration of my alleged infringement of the United States' Tariff.

The books about which there may be a double opinion were not manufactured by me or anybody else for the American market. When they were produced the American Tariff was not even thought of.

The Government of the United States has in me a sincere friend, and every citizen of the Republic receives in my house a hearty welcome. Surely it is a painful mistake to look upon me as an enemy and to treat me as a criminal.

I sincerely hope that the United States' Treasury will receive such a report from you with regard to my exceptional position in the London Trade, as will put an end to all such erroneous impressions. It is sufficiently known here, that the most eminent men in England, such as Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, the Dukes of Somerset and Devonshire, the Earl of Kimberley, Lord Northbrooke, the Earl of Crawford and his son Lord Lindsay, Prince Louis-Lucien-Bonaparte, Mr. Ruskin, Professor Huxley, Professor Mivart, Professor Owen, and others, whose names are famous, have honoured me with their patronage and friendship.

An action for fraud against me would be considered impossible by my English customers. It is not the loss of the consignments which affects me, but it is a matter of vital importance that I should vindicate my injured honour. I trust the United States' Treasury will find means to withdraw their charge.

With regard to the despatch of books from England to another country, the making out of the invoice is tolerably easy (though not so easy as it seems), when the goods invoiced have actually been sold. When books are, however, consigned in the usual way to be sold, it is wholly impossible to foretell the result of the sale, and to make a correct declaration of the value of the books consigned, their true value being of course so much as they will fetch and no more. The compulsion upon the shipper of swearing to the value of the goods consigned by him is, therefore, only a mockery of the sacredness of an oath.

I have not read the exact wording of the United States' Tariff on the article of Books, but I have understood, and have declared accordingly, that books printed within twenty years pay 25 per cent. duty *ad valorem*, but that books printed before that limit are duty free. Now for the difficulties, first of the price, and then of the date. Books consigned for absolute sale, as mine were, would be disposed of at whatever price they might bring, and that has very often been less than the value I had declared. Thus if I declared my books at too high an estimate, I made myself a martyr (which is nearly the same thing as a fool), and if too low, I should be a rogue. There is no middle term, for, to hit the exact price a book would fetch is an impossibility. But this I hear is not at present the question. I understand I am charged with having declared books to have been printed over

twenty years ago, which were really printed within twenty years. This charge I deny. All books printed from wood-blocks, "stereos," coppers, or steels, with a title engraved in any such manner will always retain their original date, no matter how long and how often after the first issue they may have been printed. ALL Chinese books are thus printed. Most of the great Works on Art have such engraved titles. Impressions from stereotypes always present the same original date unless specially altered. There are other difficulties in the way of raising duty according to date, as in the facts that:—

1. Many books have no date whatever.
2. Oriental books are dated by Oriental Eras.
3. Dates are used in Oriental, Hebrew, and other books which can only be conjectured or deciphered by trained scholars.
4. In the case of many books one-half, or some portion of the work is printed twenty years before the remainder. The duty-free portion may be the scarcer part while the modern portion may be of little value, and there would thus be an apparent inequality in the value of each.

[It is hoped the Customs' officers are in possession of a complete set of my Catalogues, many of which are long since out of print and very scarce.]

- I. In reply to inquiry No. 1, quoted on the first page, I beg to give you here a brief

HISTORY OF MY LIFE AS A BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER.

I was born on April 23rd, 1819, in Worbis, Prussia ; but, when only nine years of age, I lost my father, a Prussian military officer, and have since then struggled slowly upwards, unaided by friends or relatives. Having served a five years' apprenticeship with a New-bookseller in Nordhausen, Prussia, from 1834 to 1839, I went in the latter year to a publisher in Berlin ; but being determined to enter into the Old-book trade, I came, in April, 1842, to London, and succeeded in entering Henry George Bohn's service. I remained with him, on that occasion, for two years, then went to Paris for one year's employment in a French house, after which I returned to Bohn for two years more, and left him finally in April, 1847. I had thus nearly thirteen years' experience as an *employé*. Three of my employers are still alive, and I am on friendly terms with them. In all those years I was only absent from my duties for one week, and that was during my apprenticeship and in consequence of an illness. I was never out of work for more than the few days consumed in the journeys from Nordhausen to Berlin, Berlin to London, London to Paris, and Paris to London.

I commenced business for myself as an Agent in April, 1847, at 63 Great Russell Street, with a capital of about £70 ; but owing to a dispute which arose between Mr. Bohn and myself, I changed my office, and took a small shop, in October, 1847, at

16 Castle-street, Leicester Square, at a weekly rent of 16s, but with a capital reduced to about £10. That house is now my freehold property.

In Castle Street, my exceptional industry, coupled with exceptional business aptitudes, not to mention the enjoyment of an iron constitution (nowise impaired by an abstemious and frugal private life devoted to study) produced corresponding but unexpected results. My progress was marvellous and surprised everybody. I worked day and night, and soon developed from a stall-keeper selling penny books into one of the leading second-hand booksellers of London.

I always had such unbounded confidence in my own success, that in the earlier days of my employment by Mr. Bohn, when he used me as a porter and paid me 24s a-week (at a later date my salary rose to £110 per year), I said to him, "Ah! Mr. Bohn, you are the first bookseller in England, I mean to become the first bookseller in Europe."

This ambitiousness was prejudicial, in so far as it prevented the concentration of all my strength upon the Old-book trade. I did a little publishing, and bought a few remainders, and dealt also in the retail of new English books and imported new Foreign books.

In fact, I carried on the bookselling business in all its branches, but the Old-book trade especially.

As an Old-bookseller, I printed in Castle Street, between April, 1847, and March, 1860, 157 Catalogues (numbered 1-157)

From March, 1860, when I transferred my business to its present address, my commercial relations continued to extend over all parts of the world; my dealings with the United States being particularly satisfactory and active. I printed in Piccadilly my Catalogues 158-331 (1860 to 1879), and various minor Lists of books.

As above stated, my thirteen years' trading in Castle Street was in all branches of the book business; and in the (nearly) twenty years' trading in Piccadilly I have followed the same course.

The present inquiry seems to concern an infinitesimally small portion of my business, viz.: my "Turn-outs," *i.e.* books which I specially wanted to get rid of, being either *Old books* of a low value, or *my own publications* of which I had large stocks, or *remainders* with which I desired to part,—and which were to be allowed to go at whatever prices they might fetch. These "Turn-outs" I sent to certain centres abroad, some of them to the United States. They realized little, but that little was welcome; and space was thus made on the shelves for other goods.

This leads me to the history of my publishing and remainder business, of which I proceed to give an outline.


An account of this branch of my business, as compared with the lengthy narrative which would be required for a survey of my Old-book trade, may be likened to the annals of a parish as compared with the history of a nation.

I may as well say at once here—

1. I have never published a book with any other date than the actual year of its publication.

2. I have never published a book with two different dates or titles. Just as a book was issued for the English market, so was it sold elsewhere.

3. In facsimile-reprints of text, I have naturally left the correct, *i.e.* the original date. Publishers frequently send out issues with fresh dates, but it is a fraud for the purpose of palming off an old book as a new one upon the deluded public.

 This scrupulous accuracy on my part seems to be a principal source of misconstruction and misrepresentation by enemies.

4. Whenever I reprinted a book *with additions*, I have of course put the new date on the title—as in the following instances, to mention only a few:—

Kemble's Anglo-Saxons in England;
 Lord Lyttelton and Mr. Gladstone's Translations;
 Fitzgerald's Omar Khayyam;
 Faris' Arabic Grammar;
 Catafago's Arabic Dictionary;
 Redhouse's Turkish Dictionary;
 Hawkins' Silver Coins; and
 Digby's Broadstone of Honour.

Allow me now to give a list of some of my publications and “remainder”-purchases, in chronological order.

From 1847 to 1852. I bought small remainders, chiefly of Oriental books; also the *German* edition of D'Agincourt's History of the Fine Arts.

In 1853, I bought the first portion of a grand remainder (at a later time the whole stock and plant) of Gruner's Ornamental Art.

In 1855, I brought out my own first publication—Wright's Christianity in Arabia.

In 1861, Mr. Gladstone asked me—as a mark of his personal regard for me—to publish for him and his brother-in-law, Lord Lyttelton, a volume of Translations from the Greek, of which, with his consent, I brought out a second edition in 1863.

In 1865, I published Dircks' Marquis of Worcester.

In 1866, I bought the publications of the Oriental Translation Fund, 73 various works, amounting to several thousand volumes.

In 1867, I bought the stock of Pritchard's Natural History of Man, and Owen's Odontography.

In 1868, I bought Pugin's Glossary of Ecclesiastical Ornament.

In 1868-69, I bought the stock of Messrs. Day and Son,—including

Owen Jones' Grammar of Ornament 1868

Westwood's Facsimiles of MSS. 1868

Humphreys' Art of Printing 1868

These books were of course sold just as I bought them, having all been delivered complete.

In 1869, I bought in Munich the remaining stock of the Boissérée and Munich Galleries. The stones were destroyed.

I also bought the stock and coppers of Gruner's Italian Frescoes; and I published Selater and Salvin's Exotic Ornithology, 13 parts.

In 1873, I bought in Dresden the *Galerie de Dresde*, 3 volumes, without the coppers.

In 1874, I bought the entire stock of W. Rees of Llandovery, all ready-printed books relating to Wales; and in Neuchâtel, the entire stock of the publications of the late Professor Agassiz (then already settled in the United States).

In 1875, I bought Lumley's remaining stocks, including the *English* edition of D'Agincourt's *History of Art*, coppers, odd-stock, and text; Barrett's *Magus*, odd stock, and 23 copperplates; Westwood's *Arcana Entomologica*; and Sowerby's *Genera of Shells*.

I bought also the stereos and stock of Müller's *Ancient Art*; the original printed text, odd-stock, and the stones, of Owen Jones' *Alhambra*, 2 vols.; and Rosini, *Storia della Pittura Italiana*, 7 vols. coppers and printed text.

I printed—naturally with the proper date of 1875—a new edition of Burekhardt's *Arabic Proverbs*.

I purchased likewise the stock of Murchison's *Geology of Russia*, 2 vols.; and the stock of Gruner's *Terra Cotta Architecture*—text and plates already produced.

In 1876, I bought the bulk of H. G. Bohn's great remainder-stock, from Messrs. Chatto and Windus—viz., the works of Hogarth, Gillray, Meyrick, Shaw, Strutt, Pugin, and Cotman, Claude's *Liber Veritatis*, Knight's *Eccles. Architecture of Italy*, and Silvestre's *Universal Palæography*.

This stock consisted of printed text, printed

copperplates, the original engraved coppers, and the woodblocks—in fact, the entire remainder (technically speaking).

I also purchased the stock of the Turner Gallery—artist's proofs.

In 1877, I bought from Lady Faraday the remaining stock and the copyright of Faraday's *Researches in Electricity*, 3 vols. Two of the volumes being out of print were reproduced by me in absolute facsimile.

I published Digby's *Broad Stone of Honour*, 5 vols.

In 1878, I bought the stock of Stothard's *Monumental Effigies*.

In 1879, I bought the stock of Maclean's *Deanery of Trigg Minor*, 3 vols. 4to.; and of the *Western Yunnan Expedition*.

Of course, I have had, and have, many other remainders, but the above outline will be sufficient to elucidate the objects of the present inquiry.

One word more concerning my future. I shall be in business, if my life is spared, a few years longer, and I shall continue to keep up the friendly relations I have had with my customers in the United States. Even after me, I trust my business and my name will live, and maintain the established reputation of my house for fair dealing, activity, and promptitude.

In reply to Inquiry No. II, I beg to give you an idea of the vast extent of my regular business—that is, the supply of books ordered by actual purchase

from my stock (as distinguished from the occasional consignment of lots for chance sale by auction); by inserting here a list of my customers and consignees in the United States.

To all of them (with the single exception of Messrs. Sabin and Sons) I can refer without hesitation.

ALBANY :

New York State Library (S. R. Woolworth).

BOSTON :

Horticultural Society (E. W. Buswell, Esq.).

Mrs. Baker, 152 Commonwealth Avenue.

W. T. Brigham, Esq., 95 Milk Street.

Dr. J. R. Nichols, 34 Oliver Street.

O. W. Peabody, Esq.

Estes & Lauriat, Booksellers, 143 Washington Street.

Little, Brown & Co., Booksellers, 254 Washington Street.

BROOKLYN :

Hon. H. C. Murphy.

CAMBRIDGE :

Harvard College.

Prof. A. Agassiz.

E. W. Gurney, Esq.

C. E. Norton, Esq.

Prof. W. J. Rolfe, Cambridgeport.

CHARLESTOWN (MASS.) :

Jas. F. Hummewell, Esq., 13 Green Street.

CHICAGO :

C. J. Barnes, 36 Madison Street.

Ben. Durham, Esq., Oak Park, Ridgeland.
 E. G. Asay, Esq., Howland Block.
 Judge Mark Skinner, 86 Rush Street.

CINCINNATI :

Public Library.
 W. H. Doane, care of Messrs. J. A. Fay & Co.
 Henry Probasco, Esq.
 R. E. Wilde & Co., Booksellers.

CLEVELAND :

Public School Library.
 J. G. White, Esq., 150 Superior Street.

HARTFORD :

Watkinson Library.
 J. H. Hammond Trumbull, Esq.

LONGMEADOW (MASS.):

W. G. Medlicott, Esq.

NEWHAVEN :

Yale College (Addison van Name, Esq.).
 Prof. J. W. Knapp, Yale College.
 T. R. Trowbridge, Esq., Jun.

MENLO PARK (NEW JERSEY) ;

T. A. Edison, Esq.

NEW YORK :

Astor Library.
 New York Society Library.
 Lenox Library.
 J. J. Astor, Esq., 338 Fifth Avenue.
 F. Alston Bishop, Esq., 65 Fifth Avenue.

Clarence Cooke, Esq., 171 West Tenth Street.
 C. A. Dana, Esq., 170 Nassau Street.
 C. H. Kalbfleisch, Esq., 55 Fulton Street.
 R. Lenox Kennedy, Esq., Bank of Commerce.
 J. D. Lange, Esq.
 James Lenox, Esq., 53 Fifth Avenue.
 Samuel Ward, Esq., Brevoort House.
 Sabin & Sons, Nassau Street, Booksellers.
 J. W. Bouton, 706 Broadway, ditto.
 F. W. Christern, 77 University Place, ditto.
 A. L. Luyster, Fulton Street, ditto.
 G. P. Putnam's Sons, 182 Fifth Avenue, ditto.
 Scribner, Welford & Co., 654 Broadway, ditto.
 J. Wiley & Sons, 15 Astor Place, ditto.

PHILADELPHIA :

Franklin Institution.
 G. W. Childs, Esq., 600 Chesnut Street.
 Dr. Saml. Lewis, College of Physicians.
 Henry C. Lea, Esq., 706 Sansom Street.
 Lippincott & Co., 415 Market Street, Booksellers.
 Pennington & Son, 127 South Seventh Street, ditto.
 Porter & Coates, 822 Chesnut Street, ditto.

PROVIDENCE :

Brown University.
 Athenæum Library.
 Hon. J. R. Bartlett.

SACRAMENTO :

E. B. Croker, Esq.
 Governor Stanford.

SAN FRANCISCO :

Law Library.

Mechanics' Institute.

Medical College of the Pacific.

Mercantile Library.

Odd Fellows' Library Association.

Public Library.

Society of Californian Pioneers.

University State Library, Berkeley.

Alfred A. Cohen, Esq.

J. T. Doyle, Esq., 323 California Street.

Joseph A. Donohoe, Esq., Banker.

John W. Dwinelle, Esq.

A. S. Hallidie, Esq. 113 Pine Street.

R. C. Harrison, Esq., 19 Express Buildings.

J. R. Jarboe, Esq., 19 Express Buildings.

T. H. Rearden, Esq.

Dr. J. D. B. Stillman, 336 O'Farrell Street.

C. W. Winans, Esq.

Bancroft & Co., Booksellers.

WELLESLEY (Mass.):

Wellesley College.

My transactions with the customers mentioned in the above list have not always been large; but in the case of

Mr. Dana, Editor of the *Sun*, New York,

Mr. Lenox Kennedy, Banker,

Mr. James Lenox,

Mr. J. J. Astor,

Messrs. Sabin & Sons,

they have been very large.

Allow me now to give a detailed account of my relations with Sabin and Sons.

Joseph Sabin, senior, is a man of about fifty-nine years, or nearly my own age. He left England some thirty years ago, and settled in the United States of America. His antecedents are unknown to me.

I saw him first about eighteen years ago. He had just then failed in the United States, but he succeeded in mollifying the irritation of his London creditors with a tale which exhibited his own virtue and the villainy of those who had shown him to be in their debt. I lost nothing on that occasion by his failure, and the matter did not therefore interest me. He again commenced in New York as a bookseller, trading under the style of Sabin and Sons.

About seven or eight years ago he started a London agency, which was managed by his sons in succession. The sons, who are all intelligent, won my good graces, and I gave the firm credit. Their payments were slow and unsatisfactory, but still I obtained what was due from time to time, until the event mentioned in the next paragraph.

In August, 1878, Mr. Sabin, senior, came to London on a visit, and bought books to the value of £427. 11s 6d from my stock of "remainders" and publications. He distinctly told me, upon my direct question, that those goods would be paid for by bills of long date (viz.—in four payments of £99, £99, £99, and £130. 11s 6d, payable at intervals of three months, the first on January 4, 1879, and the last

on October 4, 1879; all made payable in London); and equally distinctly that his son Frank, who managed the London house, was competent to accept and honour the bills in due time. Frank Sabin did in fact so accept the bills in the name of the firm, and the goods were delivered to the house in London. Mr. Sabin, senior, had returned to New York by the end of September.

On the 1st of October, 1878, I held a trade sale of my remainders and publications, at which Mr. Frank Sabin, on behalf of the firm, bought to the amount of £90. 8s 8*d* (for which he also accepted a bill due May 22, 1879).

Early in October, 1878, I had an intimation that it would be advisable to beware of the Sabins, as their business had been transferred in New York to a junior son, then a minor. No definite notice was given me of that transaction.

Frank Sabin, when he found that the New York house was insolvent, returned to me goods amounting to £51. 11s 6*d*, thus reducing the liabilities of the firm—so far as I was concerned—to £462. 19s 2*d*. I still believed that they would get over their difficulties.

By order of Messrs. Sabin's London solicitor, two meetings of the creditors were called, at which I acted as chairman. Such a garbled statement of the affairs of the house was made by Frank Sabin, that I felt disgusted. It came out that he had signed £4000 worth of accommodation bills as between his firm and Bossange of Paris, although he alleged

that his firm had not received one penny of money on account of them. Sabin's stock in London was almost worthless. The stock and the business in New York, we were told, had been sold, but the buyer offered 3s 6d in the pound to the London creditors. Both meetings ended without any result.

A private attempt was subsequently made by Mr. Prickett, a respectable accountant, to settle the affairs of Sabin and Sons in London; he offered in their name 2s 6d in the pound. I refused to accept that sum. The bulk of the creditors did agree; but after they had received tenpence in the pound, the payments stopped.

Early in December, 1879, Sabin, senior, came to London, and there have been two calls from the Bankruptcy Court upon the creditors. My solicitor, not myself, attended the first meeting. The creditors, willing to snatch at any offer whatsoever, accepted *one shilling* in the pound, instead of the 3s 6d in the pound before offered, which amount Mr. Prickett, the Trustee of the Estate, is ready to pay each creditor on receiving an acquittance in full.

My solicitor has declined to accept the proffered composition. It depends upon the result of my law suit against Sabin and Sons in New York to prove whether he has acted in my best interest or not.

When the offer of two shillings and sixpence in the pound was made by the Sabins through Mr. Prickett and refused by me, I believed that I had a chance of recovering the full debt by stating my case in the United States' Law Court in New York.

I therefore entrusted the proofs of my claim,—consisting of five bills (amounting to £518. 0s 2*d*) accepted by Frank Sabin in the name of Sabin and Sons, but dishonoured when they fell due,—to Mr. Hamilton Cole, Solicitor, 110 Broadway, New York.

When my case in New York first came on in October, 1878, Joseph Sabin, senior, Joseph Sabin, junior, and William W. Sabin, the three New York partners of Frank Sabin, declared upon oath that they did not recognize the signature to the bills and would therefore not acknowledge it. All three swore that the signature of their son and brother, with whom they had been in daily correspondence for many years, was unknown to them, and also that they could not tell whose signature it was which appeared on the bills. After this, the American Court sent a Commission to London to Mr. Van Wagner, Barrister, in the Temple. That gentleman took my evidence concerning the bills, and also examined Frank Sabin, who, after making as long a delay as he could, ultimately admitted that he had accepted the bills in the name of the firm. The cost of this Commission had to be paid by me.

How my law case in New York will stand now that Sabin and Sons have obtained their release in London, by liquidation in bankruptcy, on the payment of one shilling in the pound, I do not know; nor do I know the American law as to purchasing goods and raising money upon them within a few days of bankruptcy. [It is believed, but I have not yet received absolute proof, that the bill of lading,

with Consular invoices of the consignment to Messrs. Sabin of the books purchased from me, were deposited with a New York banking house, and that a considerable amount of money was advanced upon this security, and that the bankers are consequently returned in the schedule of creditors as being secured.] But the management of the affair, both in London and New York, is in the hands of my solicitors.

Let me proceed to continue the account of my general business-relations with American customers. As for California, I believe I may say that the major portion of the good and valuable books now to be found in the libraries of that rising State, has been supplied by me. Of course in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati—in fact, throughout the United States—my commercial activity has been of acknowledged usefulness to scholars and to collectors of learned and rare works. I have repeatedly been invited by American book collectors (among whom I may instance my excellent patrons, Mr. Astor, of New York, and Mr. Barnes, of Chicago) to pay them a visit in the United States; and I have had frequent assurances that the American lovers of rare old books would be glad to welcome me among them. This friendliness of feeling is warmly reciprocated on my part; and although I have not yet been able to carry out my wish in that respect, yet it is my intention to respond personally to those cordial invitations as soon as I can be spared from my London duties.

My consignments to the United States consisted of books, old and new, such as I could easily spare from my stock. They included usually a portion of my publications and remainders.

The following is a list of my Consignments for sale by public auction. (The Catalogues were usually printed by me in London, and forwarded with the goods to the auctioneer.)

DATE.	CONSIGNEE.	WHERE.	FREE.	DUTI- ABLE.	TOTAL.	NETT PRO- CEEDS.
			£	£	£	£
1875 April	Leavitt & Co.	New York.	84	38	122	} 335
1876 June	do.	do.	179	45	224	
1877 May	do.	do.	148	33	181	} 448
" July	do.	do.	217	124	341	
1876 July	Bangs, Merwin & Co.	do.	191	47	238	233
1875 May	Davis & Co.	San Francisco.	151	43	194	148
1876 June	do.	do.	192	33	225	127
1879 Jan.	Newhall & Co.	do.	154	54	208	130
1878 July	Thomas & Sons.	Philadelphia.	191	33	224	215
					1957	1636
1878 Aug.	Leavitt & Co.	New York.	22	26	48	} Not yet accounted for.
1879 July	do.	do.	168	140	308	
1879 Sep.	Thomas & Sons.	Philadelphia.	290	64	354	

By the preceding statement it is shown that, considering the magnitude of my business, the consignments to the United States during five years were of but comparatively little importance.

My declarations at the American Consulate were always truthfully made. Indeed, I generally over-declared the value, and incurred loss upon nearly every transaction. This was one reason why my consignments were so few and far between.

The consignment I made to Leavitt and Co. in July, 1879, was to have been disposed of at a trade sale at the end of September, 1879. I have had no news either of the consignment or of the result of the sale.

All I know is this, that on October 1, 1879, there appeared in the *New York Herald* an insidious article, under the heading of "Booksellers' Tricks," of which the first portion had reference to some books of mine in Leavitt's trade sale.—I here insert the article itself cut out from the columns of the *Herald*.

BOOKSELLERS' TRICKS.

INTRODUCING NEW BOOKS FREE OF DUTY—THE VALUE OF AN OLD IMPRINT—DISREPUTABLE PRACTICES.

The booksellers in Nassau Street are considerably excited over the "glare up" and consequent bolt at the annual trade sale on Saturday last. Among the consignees was Mr. Bernard Quaritch, of 15 Piccadilly, London. He sent over an invoice of about £300, but it is asserted that contrary to the rules under which the sales are made he reserved his books and ordered them to be bought in unless they brought a price far beyond their real value. More than this, it is asserted, he entered many of them as more than twenty years old, and therefore free of duty, whereas it is avowed they are newly manufactured and bound. In one of these works appears the imprint, "London, Bernard Quaritch, No. 15 Piccadilly, 1852," whereas in the year 1852 and for some years afterwards he occupied a small shop at "No. 16 Castle Street, Leicester Square (three doors from St. Martin's Court)" an obscure locality, very difficult to be found by anyone not acquainted with the great metropolis. Many of the books sold cannot be delivered because a reappraisement has been ordered by the Custom House authorities, and of many of them a bookseller remarked yesterday the buyers were sold as well as the books.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

Hearing of these reports an Herald reporter interviewed a number of booksellers yesterday, and from all of them heard a confirmation of the story. "There are tricks in our trade as well as in others," said one, "but in London they resort to things which have never been attempted in New York. What is called 'a knock out' is very common with the trade there. 'A knock out' is a combina-

tion among buyers not to bid against each other, or, if possible, not to allow anyone else to bid against them. Books bought at 'a knock out' are again sold among the members of the combination, and I have known cases where they were sold a third time. For instance, some time ago a copy of the first folio Shakespeare was put up at auction. As you know a perfect copy is worth about £700. This was not perfect, but it was still very valuable—worth, say £600. At the sale it brought only £20. There were seven booksellers in the ring, and they put it up among themselves and it brought £140. There was, however, a ring within the ring, and four out of the original seven were dropped, and then the book was again put up at auction. The purchaser bought it for £450, paying, of course, only half its value, while the other two pocketed an additional £150 each. Where there is a private purchaser, however, willing to pay a good price, and the booksellers buy on commission, the ring puts up the price as high as, or even a little higher than, it will bear. If this twenty years' dodge is allowed to succeed here, it will not be long before we shall have in New York all the tricks of the London trade."

It will be seen that this contains a scurrilous attack upon me, which could only have been written or promoted by an ill-willed person like Mr. Joseph Sabin, senior. Merely a portion of the article had direct reference to myself; but the ingenious introduction of an entirely extraneous subject—the practice of knock-out conspiracies by dealers at auction-sales—serves by innuendo to heighten the imputation of *mala fides*, and to give an air of greater probability to the slander.

My reply appeared in the *Herald* of November 10, together with an additional note by Mr. Hamilton Cole.

"BOOKSELLERS' TRICKS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :—

I trust your courtesy will allow me place for a few remarks concerning an article under the above title which appeared in your issue of October 1. So widely known as I am throughout America it is my duty to answer a false charge of dishonesty which that article contains and which may be traceable to the malice of an individual

smarting under a well merited punishment. I am accused of having sent to be sold at the New York trade auction books chargeable with duty, but for which I have dishonestly procured exemption by the subterfuge of a false date on the title, and an instance in point is given by quoting an imprint (I know not whence) which runs thus : —“ London, Bernard Quaritch, No. 15 Piccadilly, 1852.” Most of my American, as well as English, friends know that I had no address in Piccadilly till 1860, and consequently the running maligner seems to have made a grave charge. But the reply is simple. I possess a great many “remainders” of old editions of books, and it is, and has been for over three hundred years, a frequent custom among remainder-holders who were also publishers to reprint titles, substituting the new name for the old one. In the transfer of remainders from one hand to another, this may be done several times, and involves no intention whatever to deceive, the history of each “remainder” being carefully followed by all the members of the trade. Such a reimpression of the title of a book does not alter the fact that the book itself was actually produced at the date specified, and in artistic works, the whole value of which consists in their engravings, a reprint of even the entire text does not constitute a new book. While the stock of engravings remains unexhausted the work may be issued over and over again with its original date, although, in order to pass it through the binder’s hands, there may be a necessity to reprint the title, or a leaf, or a sheet, or even the whole text. These facts are well known to every one in the English, American, French, and German book trade and to every sensible man among the public. But I suspect that the article in the *Herald* is the venomous offspring of a soi-disant “honourable” dealer against whose tricks of book getting I have had recourse to American law. The “obscure locality” in which I am spitefully declared to have exercised my craft more than twenty years ago was familiar to book lovers on the other side of the Atlantic, as well as in England. Many rare volumes and tracts passed into and out of my hands then at far lower prices than such things have risen to nowadays, and among those who took the benefit of such advantages my American customers were the first. It is also said of me that I ordered my books to be bought in at the trade sale, “unless they brought a price far beyond their real value.” The stupid folly of such a statement destroys its malevolence. Any dealer in any kind of merchandize who pursued such a course of action would soon be a bankrupt, as is evidenced by the present condition of the inspirer of the article previously printed by you. With thanks for your courteous insertion of this remonstrance I am, sir, your obedient servant.

BERNARD QUARITCH.

OCTOBER 13, 1879.

No. 15 Piccadilly, London.

THE LAW OF THE CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :—

As a supplement to Mr. Quaritch's letter, printed above, I wish to say that the laws of the United States provide for the importation free of duty of "books which shall have been printed and manufactured more than twenty years at the date of importation." Under date of March 5, 1872, the Secretary of the Treasury decided that "books which have been actually printed and published more than twenty years are exempt from duty under the provision therefor in the twenty-second section of the Act of July 14, 1870, notwithstanding the fact that they have been rebound and repaired within that period." There is a difference of opinion in the Custom House here upon the question whether a new title page upon a book more than twenty years old would render the whole book dutiable, and I cannot find that this question has been finally determined. The better opinion is, I think, that such a book would not be dutiable. Any one at all "bookish" knows that the views stated by Mr. Quaritch as to what constitutes a "new" book are universally accepted. Whether or not a rigid construction of the customs law would bring about a different result from that arrived at by Mr. Quaritch, this would hardly justify the charge of fraud contained in your previous article—a charge, however, which could have no effect except upon those who have no acquaintance with one of the leading London booksellers of the present day.—Yours, &c.,

HAMILTON COLE, Counsel for B. Quaritch.

NEW YORK, OCT. 29, 1879.

The books consigned to Messrs. Thomas and Sons in September, 1879, were to have been sold on October 22, when the sale was stopped, and the property seized by the Customs. This act will be contested by my counsel, Mr. James W. Paul, in Philadelphia, in February, when the case is to be heard in a United States' Law Court.

[Although it might be more regular to embody the following observations in my reply to Inquiry No. IV, it seems appropriate to place them here

with the account of the consignments to which they have reference.]

I will now go through the Sale Catalogue of the consignment to Messrs. Thomas and Sons, with the object of defending the declaration which I made at the United States' Consulate. I only refer to those lots upon which I see the possibility of an adverse opinion :—

Lot 12—Bhagavad Gita, 1855, valued 5s.

I know this to be a facsimile reprint, I believe from stereos.

Lot 44—Faraday, 1839-55, valued £1. 15s.

In the very note publicly printed in the Catalogue it is stated that two of the volumes are facsimile reprint.

Lot 80—Lindley and Hutton, valued £2. 10s.

This is printed from the original coppers.

Lot 93—Müller's Ancient Art, valued 3s 6d.

Reprinted from the stereos when the property was, about seven years ago, transferred to me. I had the name of the former owner expunged, and mine with present address substituted. The date was left unaltered, because I had no right to alter it or to falsify the chronological record of the publication.

Lot 67—Barrett, 1801, valued 10s.

As stated in the Catalogue, this is a re-issue with impressions from the original copper-plates.

Lot 235 — D'Agincourt (History of Art), 1847, valued £1. 10s.

This work I bought as a remainder about six years ago. I bought printed text, plates and coppers.

I reprinted the title-page, putting my own name instead of the former owner's, but of course leaving the date unchanged, as the book was virtually identical with the edition of 1847, and a new date would be a falsification in bibliography.

Lot 260—Hogarth, valued £5.

The text of this book (correctly dated 1822, although evidently printed *since* then;—*when* I know not, but not by me) was delivered to me ready printed. Some of the coppers were in the hands of the restorer or repairer, and for that reason, the working of the book was for a while delayed. There may be a question as to the possible liability of a repaired book.

That such a large proportion of the books consigned by me should be over twenty years old, and thus duty free, arises from the fact that I deal especially in Old books, and have very few modern productions for disposal. I am emphatically, as I have already stated, what is called an Old-bookseller.

In the consignment made to Messrs. Thomas and Sons, valued at £354, I can only trace (so far as I can judge) books to the amount of £11. 13s 6d, upon which there could be a possible difference of opinion as to their liability to duty. I therefore see no sufficient reason why I should not uphold my Consular declaration. I must naturally, however, abide by the decision of the United States' legal tribunal.

I beg on the other hand to remark, that there could be no *animus furandi* in my Consular decla-

ration, when the amount of duty, which might be considered the object of evasion, was so very small.

And even if I were held to be in the wrong on those points, I should consider it barbarous to visit a slender and unintentional infringement of a regulation (which still requires to be clearly defined) with unprecedented severity.

III. In reply to Inquiry No. III, as to whether "I succeeded in getting a fraudulent invoice through the New York Customs," I now beg to furnish you with copies of (*a* 1 and 2) invoices and books supplied to Sabin and Sons (although these were shipped and declared by Frank Sabin); and (*b* 1 and 2) invoices of the books shipped and declared by me to Messrs. Leavitt and Co., as I do not know to which invoice you refer.—I annex here at the same time (*c*) a copy of my declaration of consignment to Messrs. Thomas and Sons in Philadelphia.

(" 1)

LONDON, 15 *Piccadilly*, 14th *August*, 1878.

MESSRS. J. SABIN AND SONS,

to BERNARD QUARITCH.

		£	s.	d.
2	Astle, on Writing, 4to. hf. bd. @ 31/6	3	3	0
7/6	Barrett's Magnus, 4to. hf. bd. @ 25/6	7	10	0
1	Claude's Liber Veritatis, 3 vols. folio, hf. mor.	10	10	0
3	Constable's Graphic Works, folio, hf. mor. @ 2/2 1/2	6	6	0
3	D'Agincourt, History of Art, folio, hf. mor. @ 2/16/6	8	8	0
7/6 1/2	Digby, Broadstone of Honor, 5 vols. 12mo. cl. @ 2/12/6	17	1	3
[One copy of Vols. I-IV returned in London.]				
Carried forward				52 18 3

		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward	52	18	3
1	Faraday's Electricity, 3 vols. 8vo. cloth	2	8	0
1	Loth's Ancient Scottish Rite, 4to. sd.	0	10	0
7/6½	Gillray's Caricatures, 2 vols. folio, and 1 vol. 8vo. hf. mor.	@ 10/10	68	5 0
1	Boisserée Gallery, folio, hf. mor.		18	0 0
1	Dresden Gallery, 3 vols. folio, hf. mor.		28	0 0
1	Munich Gallery, 2 vols. folio, hf. mor.		24	0 0
1	Gruener's Ornamental Art, folio and 4to. hf. mor.		12	12 0
1	Holbein's Portraits, 4to. hf. mor.		5	5 0
7 6	Hogarth's Works, folio, hf. mor.	9/9	56	14 0
	[One copy returned in London.]			
7/6½	Kemble's Saxons, 2 vols. 8vo. cloth	24	7	16 0
1	Kingsborough's Mexico, 9 vols. folio, coloured plates, hf. morocco		60	0 0
7 6	Lee's Glossary, 4to. hf. mor.	21	6	6 0
1	Lievre Collection d'Œuvres d'Art, 2 vols. folio, hf. mor.		6	0 0
3	Meyrick's Ancient Armour, 3 vols. folio, hf. morocco	@ 10/10	31	10 0
	[One copy returned in London.]			
7/6	Müller's Ancient Art, 8vo. cloth	@ 7/6	2	5 0
25.24	Owen Jones' Grammar of Ornament, 4to. cloth	@ 3/16	91	4 0
	[Two copies were returned in London.]			
1	Shaw's Dresses, 2 vols. folio, LARGE PAPER, illumi- nated, hf. mor.		21	0 0
1	Ottley's Florentine School of Design, folio, hf. mor.		4	4 0
1	Ottley's Italian School, folio, hf. mor.		5	5 0
1	Owen Jones' Alhambra, 2 vols. folio, hf. mor.		16	16 0
7/6½	Prichard's Natural History of Man, 2 vols. 8vo. cl.	@ 36	11	14 0
1	General Catalogue		4	4 0
	[Returned in London.]			
1	Supplement ditto		2	2 0
1	Sweet's Cistineæ, 8vo. cl.		2	2 0
7/6½	Shaw's Dresses, 2 vols. 8vo. hf. mor.	@ 5/	32	10 0
	[One copy unbound was returned in London.]			
	Carried forward		573	10 3

		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward	573	10	3
1	Silvestre's Palaeography, 2 vols. folio, hf. mor.	31	10	0
1	— Letterpress, 2 vols. 8vo. hf. mor.	2	8	0
2	Simpson's Picturesque People, 4to. cl. @ 21 ¹ / ₂	2	2	0
2	Smith's Curiosities, 4to. in quires @ 36 ¹ / ₂	3	12	0
2	Strutt's Dresses, 2 vols. 4to. hf. bd. 6 ¹ / ₂	12	12	0
1	— Regal Antiquities, 4to. hf. bd.	3	3	0
1	Westwood, Paleographia, 4to. hf. mor.	3	10	0
		632	7	3
	Discount 33 ¹ / ₃ %	210	15	9
		£421	11	6
1	Marlborough Gems, 2 vols. folio, hf. mor.			
	(7/10 ¹ / ₂) nett	4	0	0
2	Lievre Œuvres d'Art, Vol. I, unbd. @ 20 ¹ / ₂ nett	2	0	0
		£427	11	6

(a 2)

MESSRS. SABIN AND SONS

to BERNARD QUARITCH.

		£	s.	d.
7/6 ¹ / ₂	Canova's Works, 4to. cloth extra @ 14 ¹ / ₂	4	11	0
	[One copy was returned in London.]			
3	Hope's Costume of the Ancients, 2 vols. roy. 8vo. cloth extra @ 21 ¹ / ₂	3	3	0
1	Agassiz, Hist. Nat. Poissons d'Eau Douce, hf. mor. gilt	1	18	6
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7/6 ¹ / ₂	Cruikshank's Bowring (J.) Minor Morals, 3 vols. 12mo. bds. @ 6 ¹ / ₂	1	19	0
	[One copy was returned in London.]			
	Carried forward	12	6	6

		£	s.	d.
	Brought forward	12	6	6
1	Digby's Broad Stone of Honour, LARGE PAPER, 5 vols. 8vo. hf. Roxburghe	4	4	0
3	Gillray's Suppressed Plates, hf. mor. @ 25/6	3	15	0
7 6½	Summer's Chinese Grammar, 12mo. @ 1/6	0	6	6
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3	Bernard Quaritch's General Catalogue and Supple- ment, 2 vols. hf. mor. @ 3/3/6	9	9	0
2	Shaw's Dresses and Decorations of Middle Ages, 2 vols. impl. 8vo. hf. bd. mor. @ 35/6	3	11	0
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2	Turner Gallery, LARGE PAPER, Artists' India Proofs, elephant folio, hf. mor. @ 8/10/6	17	0	0
1	Strutt's Dresses and Habits of the English, 2 vols. roy. 4to. hf. morocco. uncut	4	2	0
		<hr/>		
		£90	8	8

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LONDON, 15 *Piccadilly*, W., August 24th, 1878.

BOOKS CONSIGNED TO

MESSRS. LEAVITT & CO.,

New York, U.S.A.

by BERNARD QUARITCH.

	BOOKS PRINTED BEFORE 1859.	DUTY FREE.		
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Cuba. Mollusques, 2 vols. 8vo. and atlas	1853	1	0	0
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3

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	£21	18	0
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copies.

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1 Faris' Arabic Grammar, 12mo. cl.	1866	0	1 0
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1 Ibn Khallikan, 2 vols. hf. mor.	1871	1	0 0
	<hr/>		
	£25	16	0
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LONDON, 15 *Piccadilly*, W., *July 25th*, 1879.

LIST OF BOOKS CONSIGNED TO

MESSRS. LEAVITT & CO.

No. of copies sent.	TITLE.	Date.	Printed before 1860.			Printed since 1860.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1	Holbein's Heads, 4to. hf. mor.	1828	3	3	0			
1	Durer's Apocalypse, fol. boards	1877				0	18	0
1	Murphy's Antiquities of Spain, fol.	1813	4	4	0			
6	Maskell's Allhallows, 8vo. cloth	@ 1/6 1864				0	6	0
6	Laila and Majnun, 8vo. cloth	@ 2/6 1836	0	12	0			
4	Catfago's Arabic Dictionary, 8vo.	@ £1 1873				4	0	0
6	Agassiz Nomenclatoris Index, 12mo.	@ 1/6 1848	0	6	0			
4	Barrett's Magus, 4to. hf. mor.	@ 15/6 1801	3	0	0			
4	Brown's Domestic Architecture	@ 10/6 1845	2	0	0			
1	Brown's Fossil Conchology, 4to.	1842	2	17	6			
1	Brown's Recent Conchology, 4to.	1845	1	11	6			
12	Burckhardt's Arabic Proverbs, 8vo.	@ 9/6 1875				5	8	0
12	Canova's Works, 4to. cloth	@ 12/6 1876				7	4	0
10	Catlin's N. Amer. Indians, 2 vols.	@ 20/6 1876				10	0	0
2	Claude's Beauties, fol. hf. mor.	@ 15/6 1825	1	10	0			
1	Constable's Graphic Works, fol. hf. mor.	1855	1	4	0			
2	D'Agincourt's History of Art, fol.	@ 28/6 1842	2	16	0			
6	Digby's Broadstone, 5 vols. 8vo.	@ 25/6 1876				7	19	0
6	Loth's Scottish Rite, 4to. sd.	@ 5/6 1876				1	10	0
2	Braund's Furniture, fol.	@ 18/6 1858	1	16	0			
6	Pugin's Gothic Furniture, 4to.	@ 2/6 1825	0	15	0			
6	Chippendale's Furniture, 4to.	@ 3/6 1820	1	2	6			
1	Gillray's Caricatures, 2 vols. fol.	1849	6	10	0			
1	Gillray, Caricatures, Text to, 8vo.	1851	0	19	0			
6	Faris' Arabic Grammar	@ 1/6 1866				0	9	0
12	Summers' Chinese Grammar	@ 9 1864				0	9	0
1	Gruner's Ornamental Art, 2 vols.	1850	6	6	0			
1	Gruner's Frescoes, fol. hf. mor.	1854	3	13	6			
6	Hope's Costumes, 2 vols.	@ 15/6 1875				4	10	0
1	Hawkins' Silver Coins, 8vo.	1876				0	18	0
6	Inman's Ancient Faiths, 2 vols.	@ 30/6 1872				9	0	0
1	Italian School of Design, 2 vols. 4to.	1835	4	4	0			
1	Car's Italian Masters, fol.	1877				2	2	0
12	Rodwell's Koran, 8vo.	@ 5/6 1876				3	0	0
1	Knight's Ecclesiastical Architecture, 2 vols.	1843	3	3	0			
6	Landseer's Animals, 4to.	@ 12/6 1853	3	15	0			
4	Leake's Topography of Athens, 2 vols.	@ 6/6 1841	1	4	0			
6	Leake's Peloponnesiaca, 8vo.	@ 2/6 1846	0	15	0			
1	Lievre, Œuvre d'Art, 2 vols. fol. hf. mor.	1866-9				3	5	0

Carried forward

56 18 0 60 9 0

3 *

No. of copies sent.	TITLE.	Date.	Printed before 1860.	Printed since 1860.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Brought forward		56 18 0	60 9 0
12	Lee's Glossary, 8vo. @ 7/6	1876		4 10 0
1	ditto LARGE PAPER, hf. mor.	1876		0 18 0
6	Lowe's Manual Flora @ 2 6	1871		0 15 0
12	Mabinogion, by Guest @ 10/6	1877		6 6 0
1	Martin's Civil Costume, 4to.	1842	1 11 6	
1	Meyrick's Ancient Armour, 3 vols.	1844	5 5 0	
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- 68 Kemble (John M.) the Saxons in England: a history of the English Commonwealth till the period of the Norman Conquest. 2 vols. pp. ix-435 and 562, *new and revised edition, by W. de Grey Birch, of the British Museum, cloth (pub. at 24s)* 1876

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- 0 7 0 69 Kitab-i-Yamini: Historical Memoirs of Early Conquerors of Hindustan, and Founders of the Ghaznavide Dynasty, transl. from the Persian, by the Rev. J. Reynolds 1858

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272 Kingsborough's (Lord) Antiquities of Mexico; comprising facsimiles of Ancient Mexican Paintings and Hieroglyphics, preserved in the Royal Libraries of Paris, Berlin, and Dresden; in the Imperial Library of Vienna; in the Vatican Library; in the Borgian Museum at Rome; in the Library of the Institute of Bologna; and in the Bodleian Library at Oxford; together with the Monuments of New Spain, by M. Dupaix; illustrated by many valuable unedited MSS. 9 vols. impl. folio, *containing upwards of 1000 large plates embracing all the remains of Mexican Architecture, Art, Religion, etc. hf. bd. green morocco* 1830-48

After an interval of seventeen years two more volumes of this extraordinary work were published, in every respect uniform with the preceding, consisting—1. of Supplementary Notices in English and Spanish; 2. of extracts from the works of Torquemada, Acosta and Garcia, illustrating the last portions of the Mexican paintings, contained in the collection of Mendoza, and showing the correspondence which exists between many of the Mexican and Hebrew laws; 3. Adair's History of the North American Indians, their customs and descent from the Jews; 4. Cartas ineditas de Hernando Cortez; 5. Cronica Mexicana de Tezozomoc; 6. Historia Chichimeca y Relaciones por Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl.

"When, some four centuries ago, the enterprise of Spanish Navigators opened the vast continent of America to the admiration of Europe, the civilization of the New World was found to be concentrated in two spots, and two only, of that enormous territory. One of these favoured regions was Peru; the other was Mexico. It was in Mexico especially that art, politics and science had received their greatest development. All the rest of North America, from the shores of Hudson's Bay to the mouths of the Mississippi, was desolate and barbarous, diversified only by swamp, forest, or prairie, and populated by savages without knowledge or laws. Mexico alone redeemed the character of the new continent, and presented to the eyes of the invader a spectacle so marvellous as to satisfy even the expectations which the great discovery had raised. There the Spaniards found an organized State, an ancient polity, an opulent capital, an exalted dynasty, a formidable priesthood, and a people well skilled in mechanical and decorative art. So great, in fact, was the proficiency of the Mexican workmen, so elaborate the system of government, and so impressive the whole evidence of wealth and grandeur, that for some time the civilization of Mexico was regarded as superior to that of Europe. Although indeed the researches of modern inquirers has enabled us to supply some corrective to these ideas, it is really probable that in certain respects the Spaniards found Mexico more advanced than Spain, and we have been recently assured on the authority of a comprehensive history that this civilization was the necessary incident of geographical and natural advantages. Such was the situation and configuration of Mexico that it could hardly fail to make progress, and all that was discovered there in the shape of national wealth or political order represented the extraordinary opportunities which nature had provided."—*Times*, Dec. 8, 1858.

3 0 0 273 Knight's (H. Gally) Ecclesiastical Architecture of Italy, from the time of Constantine to the XVth Century, with an Introduction and Text, 81 *lithographic illustrations*, 2 vols. impl. folio (pub. £10. 10s), *hf. bound* 1843-44

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- 2 0 0 276 Meyrick's Engraved Illustrations of Ancient Arms and Armour; a Series of 154 very highly finished Etchings of the Collection at Goodrich Court, Herefordshire; engraved by Joseph Skelton, and accompanied by historical and critical disquisitions by the possessor, Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, L.L.D., &c. 2 vols. impl. 4to. *with portrait* (pub. at £11. 11s), *hf. bound morocco extra, richly gilt back and gilt edges (uniform with Lot 277)* 1854

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- 299 Westwood's *Miniature and Ornaments of Anglo-Saxon and Irish Manuscripts, 1 vol. roy. folio, fifty-four superb plates, most elaborately executed in exact facsimile of the originals in gold and colours (subscription price, £21), half morocco, gilt edges, by Bedford* 7 0
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IV. In reply to Inquiry No. IV, for a list of books invoiced by me as having been printed over twenty years, but actually printed within that period,—I beg to deny that any such list has ever existed, and to refer to pp. 21, 22, 23 of this letter, in which the allegations that have led to Inquiry No. IV, and the facts upon which they are specially grounded, are met and answered.

V. In reply to paragraph No. V of the Inquiry, I totally deny the fraudulency imputed to the invoice of books consigned to Messrs. Thomas and Sons. That invoice was made, and the value of the books declared by me correctly to the best of my judgment. The question of a few points admitting, by inherent difficulty, of diversity of opinion, is sufficiently discussed on pp. 21-24 of this letter; to which once more I beg to refer.

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nted.]

pp. 25-28.]

Even should the superior judgment of the United States' authorities consider that I have taken an erroneous view of five or six books out of 300, such a verdict ought under the circumstances to operate only against a small fraction and not the whole of the consignment.

I respectfully repeat that I shall always be glad to give any further information in my power, and to verify all my statements by oath if this is preferred.

I will freely put all my account books openly before you, and if you, or anybody else charged by you, should wish to make further investigations, every facility shall be given.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
BERNARD QUARITCH.

I, BERNARD QUARITCH, solemnly swear that the statements set forth in the foregoing letter, addressed to General Starring, special Agent of the United States' Treasury in Europe, and signed by me, are true and correct.

BERNARD QUARITCH.

January 5th, 1880.

Sworn at the Consulate-General of the United States of America, No. 53a Old Broad Street, in the City of London, this the 15th day of January, 1880, before me, J. Nunn, Vice and Deputy Consul-General of the United States at London; and a Commissioner to Administer Oaths in the Supreme Court of Judicature in England.



L.S.

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11/20/99
Confidential.]

BERNARD QUARITCH'S LETTER

TO

GENERAL STARRING,

JANUARY 14TH, 1880.

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